

REDDING, WEST REDDING, AND GEORGETOWN VOLUNTEER FIRE & EMS COMPANIES

April 29, 2019

Dear Neighbor,

We are writing to inform you about the upcoming Town budget referendum vote on May 7th. Included in this vote will be a capital expense line item to replace the Town's antiquated emergency police and fire 2-way radio systems.

Your volunteer fire companies use this emergency radio system to respond to fire and ambulance calls. The basics of this system have not changed in over 40 years, and it is now obsolete. Replacement parts are hard to find, repairs are taking longer, and new alerting pagers for our EMT's and firefighters are no longer available from quality manufacturers. Many neighboring towns, who provide mutual aid to our fire companies, have already upgraded to more modern radio systems, and we can no longer communicate directly with them for help during major emergencies. Also, our 40-year-old system cannot meet modern emergency service communications standards necessitating its complete replacement.

Redding's three Fire Districts completed a comprehensive radio upgrade study conducted by a professional 2-way radio consulting firm and have worked closely with the Town's leadership to define our needs for a modern radio system that will provide better Town radio coverage and make *direct* communications with the Redding police, responding paramedics, our mutual aid partners in other towns, and public school personnel possible. The proposed radio upgrade will be especially critical during emergencies requiring coordinated responses by Town police, firefighters, and EMS personnel, such as to a fire alarm at one of our schools or calls following severe weather events like 2012's Hurricane Sandy.

If you would like to learn more about the proposed police and fire 2-way radio upgrade, please consider reviewing the Fire Districts' radio upgrade presentation currently on the Town of Redding's website at <http://townofreddingct.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Fire-Districts-Radio-Upgrade-Project-FINAL-3-14-19.pdf>.

Regards,

Sean McKenney
Fire Chief
Redding Fire & EMS Co. No. 1

Ray Schaer
Fire Chief
West Redding Vol. Fire Co.

Michael Heibeck
Fire Chief
Georgetown Vol. Fire Co. No. 1

Hank Sanford
President
Redding Fire & EMS Co. No. 1

Bill Dunn
President
West Redding Vol. Fire Co.

Mark Svenson
President
Georgetown Vol. Fire Co. No. 1